

AMENDED IN SENATE AUGUST 22, 2006
AMENDED IN SENATE AUGUST 10, 2006
AMENDED IN SENATE AUGUST 7, 2006
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 10, 2006
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 2, 2006
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 6, 2006
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 28, 2006

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2005–06 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 2745

Introduced by Assembly Member Jones

February 24, 2006

An act to add ~~Sections 1262.3 and~~ *Section* 1262.4 to the Health and Safety Code, relating to health facilities.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2745, as amended, Jones. Hospitals: discharge plans: homeless patients.

Existing law provides for the licensure and regulation of health facilities by the State Department of Health Services. A violation of these provisions is a crime. Existing law requires each hospital to have in effect a written discharge planning policy and process that requires appropriate arrangements for posthospital care and a process that requires that each patient be informed, orally or in writing, of the continuing care requirements following discharge from the hospital, as specified.

This bill would require each hospital to ~~designate one or more representatives from the leadership of the hospital to organize and participate~~ *be represented, as specified*, in regional planning meetings, convened regionally as defined by the three regional hospital associations or through smaller geographic sections comprised of groups of hospitals in one or more counties, to improve the posthospital transition of homeless patients, as specified. The bill would require each hospital to invite the county board of supervisors, law enforcement, and others to participate. The bill would require, by January 1, 2008, the development of a specified document based upon the regional planning meetings.

The bill would also prohibit a hospital from causing the transfer of homeless patients from one county to another county for the purpose of receiving supportive services from a social service agency, health care service provider, or nonprofit social service provider within the other county, without prior notification to, and authorization from, the social service agency, health care service provider, or nonprofit social service provider.

By creating a new crime, this bill would result in a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: yes.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 ~~SECTION 1. Section 1262.3 is added to the Health and~~
- 2 ~~Safety Code, to read:~~
- 3 ~~1262.3. (a) Each hospital, as defined in subdivisions (a), (b),~~
- 4 ~~and (f) of Section 1250, shall designate one or more~~
- 5 ~~representatives from the leadership of the hospital, which may~~
- 6 ~~include an executive director or the board of trustees, to organize~~
- 7 ~~and participate in regional planning meetings to improve the~~
- 8 ~~posthospital transition of homeless patients.~~

1 SECTION 1. (a) Each hospital, as defined in subdivisions
2 (a), (b), and (f) of Section 1250 of the Health and Safety Code,
3 shall be represented in regional meetings to address the
4 posthospital transition of homeless patients by the regional
5 hospital association designee within which the hospital is
6 located. Regional meetings shall include those convened by the
7 three regional hospital associations, and smaller geographic
8 sections comprised of hospitals in one or more county.

9 (b) Topics of discussion within the regional meetings shall
10 include, but not be limited to, the identification of
11 community-based best practices for the posthospital transition of
12 homeless patients, methods to establish and support effective
13 communications between hospitals and stakeholders regarding
14 this transition, and the identification of the resources, including
15 supportive services, that are available or needed or both to assist
16 with this transition.

17 (c) ~~Meetings shall be convened regionally as defined by the~~
18 ~~three regional hospital associations or through smaller~~
19 ~~geographic sections comprised of groups of hospitals in one or~~
20 ~~more counties.~~ Each regional hospital association or smaller
21 geographic grouping of hospitals, as determined by the regional
22 hospital associations, shall invite key stakeholders within the
23 region to ~~participate in~~ address the regional planning meetings
24 and provide relevant information for the topics under discussion.
25 Key stakeholders include, but are not limited to, the county board
26 of supervisors, law enforcement, county social services agencies,
27 county health care service providers, continuum of care
28 coordinators, as defined by the federal Department of Housing
29 and Urban Development, nonprofit social service providers, and
30 regional advocates for the homeless.

31 (d) By January 1, 2008, each regional hospital association or
32 smaller geographic grouping of hospitals, as determined by the
33 regional hospital associations, shall develop a document that is a
34 compilation of recommendations based upon the regional
35 planning meetings. The document shall be made available to the
36 public and key stakeholders within a region.

37 (e) The requirements of this section shall not be construed to
38 limit any other efforts of hospitals and key stakeholders to
39 improve the transition of homeless patients.

(f) For purposes of this section, “homeless patient” means an individual who lacks a fixed and regular nighttime residence, or who has a primary nighttime residence that is a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designed to provide temporary living accommodations, or who is residing in a public or private place that was not designed to provide temporary living accommodations or to be used as a sleeping accommodation for human beings.

SEC. 2. Section 1262.4 is added to the Health and Safety Code, to read:

1262.4. (a) No hospital, as defined in subdivisions (a), (b), and (f) of Section 1250, may cause the transfer of homeless patients from one county to another county for the purpose of receiving supportive services from a social service agency, health care service provider, or nonprofit social service provider within the other county, without prior notification to, and authorization from, the social service agency, health care service provider, or nonprofit social service provider.

(b) For purposes of this section, “homeless patient” means an individual who lacks a fixed and regular nighttime residence, or who has a primary nighttime residence that is a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designed to provide temporary living accommodations, or who is residing in a public or private place that was not designed to provide temporary living accommodations or to be used as a sleeping accommodation for human beings.

SEC. 3. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because the only costs that may be incurred by a local agency or school district will be incurred because this act creates a new crime or infraction, eliminates a crime or infraction, or changes the penalty for a crime or infraction, within the meaning of Section 17556 of the Government Code, or changes the definition of a crime within the meaning of Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution.